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RECORD ACREAGE OF TAME HAY PLANNED FOR 1940

Reports from farmers as of about March 1 indicate that approximately 59,385,000 acres of tame hay may be cut in 1940, which would be 1.8 percent more than the acreage cut in 1939 and 6.4 percent more than the 10-year (1929-38) average of 55,808,000 acres.

The tendency toward moderate increases in hay acreage is rather general, though the prospective 1940 acreage is less than that cut in 1939 in a few Northwestern states, and in parts of the Cotton Belt. Small increases are expected elsewhere, except in half a dozen Corn Belt states where reductions in the acreage of corn are reflected in prospective increases in tame hay which range from 6 to 8 percent.

The acreage of crops actually cut for tame hay depends largely upon the need for hay and the most advantageous disposition of such crops as soybeans, small grains, lespedeza, etc., which may be used for either hay or other purposes. There will be a large acreage of crops which might be cut for hay in 1940, but with yields per acre and eventual utilization of most such crops still uncertain, the present report is indicative only of the general tendency toward increased forage production. As the number of cattle increased 3 percent during 1939 and may increase even more during 1940, the increases in hay now planned in the various parts of the country do not appear out of balance with changes in feeding requirements.

The indicated acreage in a number of states for 1940, with comparisons, is shown as follows:

TAME HAY					
Average 1929-38		Acreage harvested			
Yield per					
harvested					
State	Acreage	harvested	Indicated	1940 as percent	
	harvested	acre	1939	1940	of 1939
	Thousand acres	Tons	Thousand acres		Percent
Ohio	2,612	1.14	2,720	2,774	102
Ind.	1,874	1.14	1,969	2,127	108
Ill.	2,714	1.21	2,877	3,050	106
Mich.	2,585	1.20	2,640	2,693	102
Wis.	3,251	1.41	3,980	3,900	98
Minn.	2,662	1.33	3,076	3,138	102
Iowa	3,115	1.36	3,498	3,778	108
Mo.	2,750	.88	2,954	3,161	107
N.Dak.	1,214	.90	1,044	992	95
S.Dak.	1,024	.84	775	705	91
Nebr.	1,528	1.38	909	964	106
Kans.	1,068	1.35	739	798	108
Ga.	833	.54	1,111	1,050	95
Ky.	1,285	1.01	1,367	1,394	102
Tenn.	1,508	.91	1,621	1,528	94
Ala.	675	.73	840	814	97
Miss.	600	1.17	897	897	100
Ark.	749	1.00	991	991	100
La.	257	1.18	321	334	104
Okla.	532	1.26	626	626	100
Tex.	774	.97	1,163	1,128	97
Colo.	1,140	1.57	1,037	1,058	102
Ariz.	196	2.59	218	218	100
Wash.	916	1.79	989	1,009	102
Oreg.	882	1.76	824	824	100
Calif.	1,653	2.59	1,484	1,559	105
U. S.	55,808	1.25	58,347	59,385	101.8

